

jury that will sit on the President, basically jury tampering. At 8:15 he concludes remarks and proceeds to the motorcade. At 8:30 he arrives at the Sheraton New York Hotel and Towers in New York. This is while we are supposed to be negotiating the budget. Where is he? At 8:35 greets the first gala benefit for the GMP charitable foundation for cancer research. At 9:25 he boards the motorcade and departs the Sheraton Hotel and Towers en route to a private residence. At 9:35 he arrives at the private residence Manhattan, proceeds inside to private event. At 10:15 he greets the Democratic Senate Campaign Committee reception in honor of Congressman CHARLES SCHUMER, a private residence in Manhattan. At 11:55 he arrives at Kennedy International Airport, boards Air Force One. At 12:10 he leaves for Andrews, arrives at 1:05. At 1:20 departs for the White House, at 1:30 lands.

Where is the Vice President? The Vice President left this morning to go down to Palm Beach, Florida because the President cancelled his fund-raiser at Palm Beach, Florida so the Vice President went down there.

Where is the First Lady? She has no direct line of responsibility here but she is usually involved in a lot of discussions, particularly has been very outspoken on social issues. She is over in Bulgaria and the Czech Republic.

But supposedly we are a do-nothing Congress. Supposedly we are the ones holding up everything. I would suggest that if we are indeed in a crisis in our government and if we are on the border, borderline of a government shutdown, the least the President could do is stay in town and talk. Maybe we should have been doing this in the summer, during the August break, since we knew that the final issues were going to be education funding, pro-life concerns, IMF, emergency spending on year 2000 computers, and the farm crisis. We knew that. There is no shock here. We have known this for months.

But everybody has been so preoccupied with other things that they have not sat down and dealt with it. Now that we are down here, we are in extra days. We are trying to negotiate the final budget. The appropriations bills are over there. The House and Senate leaders are negotiating. In fact, some of what they have been negotiating on the drug issue, for example, they worked out with General McCaffrey, the White House drifts in and says, oh, by the way, he does not speak for us. Well, if your staff cannot speak for you, if the people you appoint cannot speak for you, stay in town. Do not go trotting around to the Waldorf Astoria for candidates who indeed actually sit on the Committee on the Judiciary. Do not go trotting over to the Hilton and into private receptions raising money when we are supposed to be trying to figure out how do the people's business.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. CONYERS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THE BUDGET PROCESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. MINGE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MINGE. Mr. Speaker, I think it is somewhat disingenuous to blame the White House for the failure of the leadership in Congress to move the appropriations and the budget process on a timely basis.

I also note with some interest that even the information that was presented in the well a minute ago is inaccurate. I happened to see Vice President GORE in Minneapolis today. He was not in Florida.

I think the rest of the analysis is similarly flawed.

We are struggling to close the 105th Congress and the problem is that the congressional leadership has failed to move the budget and appropriations legislation on a timely basis. Normally, according to the legislation that we adopted to impose upon ourselves so that there is some structure, rigor and discipline in the budget process, we would have completed a concurrent budget resolution by April 15. Here it is, October 12, almost six months later, and we do not have a concurrent budget resolution. We do not have a concurrent budget resolution.

This is symptomatic of the problem that we face in the 105th Congress. The House of Representatives passed a budget resolution. The Senate passed a budget resolution. But the leadership in the House and the Senate, both in the same political party, have not been able to meet in the middle of the building and iron out the differences between the two chambers.

As a consequence, we are stalemated in the budget process for the first time in 24 years, the first time in 24 years. And the differences between the Republican leadership in the House and the Republican leadership in the Senate and the budget resolution process parallel the differences that we see in the appropriations bills, in the tax reduction effort and many other efforts.

How can the President be blamed because the leadership in the House and the Senate are unable to get together? How can the President be blamed when October 1 arrives and most of the appropriations bills have not even been passed in Congress? It is simply an allegation that I submit that is unfounded.

What we need to do in this body is look at the rules that we have that govern our procedures on the budget and abide by them. It is as simple as that. We expect local governments, State governments, the United Nations to have a budget. People rail in this body about the lack of fiscal discipline

at the United Nations. They talk about the need for reform at the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and then we have numerous limitations on what State and local government can do with Federal funds because we do not trust them to be responsible in developing a budget. But here we sit in Congress and we are hypocrites because we have not adopted a concurrent budget resolution.

The appropriations bills, which I mentioned before, are really supposed to reflect what is in this concurrent budget resolution and move through Congress so that they are completed in the summer. That means they are presented to the President in the summer. If there is disagreement, there can be a veto or there can be negotiations in the summer.

Nothing was completed in the summer. It was deferred. It was delayed. Here we are October 12, the fiscal year started October 1, the 1998-1999 Federal fiscal year, October 1 from 1998 to September 30 of 1999. These appropriations bills were not available for planning at the Federal agencies. They were not available for negotiations with the White House or if there was going to be a veto, a veto at the White House and then negotiations.

So I submit, Mr. Speaker, that until we have the discipline within our body to do what is right in terms of a process on a timely basis, that we cannot expect the American people to respect our budget process, and certainly we cannot blame the White House for its lack of leadership on the budget issues and the appropriations bills. That leadership rests in this building, and we have not had that leadership.

WASTEFUL GOVERNMENT SPENDING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. CUNNINGHAM) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, talk about the President's leadership. He has only had two cabinet meetings in this Congress. But yet he has had over 80 fund-raisers in different areas raising millions of dollars each time. He was scheduled to go to Florida while we are sitting here working.

But that is not what I am here to talk about, Mr. Speaker. I wanted to reiterate what the previous speaker said.

I want to point out some areas where there is wasteful government and the difference between my colleagues on the other side that believe that government can do things better and on the Republican side and some Democrats feel that the people can do more with their own money.

Any time you send dollars to Washington, D.C., Mr. Speaker, about half of it is wasted. In welfare reform, less than 50 cents on the dollar gets back down to welfare. In education, less